

Vegetation Database of Deciduous Forests on Acidic Soils in NW Europe

Thilo Heinken

Abstract: The database of mixed oak and beech forests (*Quercion roboris*, *Luzulo-Fagion*) in NW Europe (DE, B, NL, PL) comprises 4,430 relevés, both from the lowlands and the adjacent hilly regions up to approximately 800 m a.s.l. It was created in the early 1990s in order to re-evaluate the syntaxonomy of deciduous forests of acidic soils in the lowlands of NW and Central Europe based on ± all available vegetation data. Only original relevés (Braun-Blanquet method) from 75 sources, published in local ecological journals or monographs, or unpublished material from diploma theses, are included. Plot sizes, complete structural data and exact geographic localisation are mostly not included in the electronic repository, but may be gained from the original publications in many cases. Beyond phytosociological classification and analysis of large-scale geographic patterns within plant communities, parts of the database have been intensively used to evaluate site characteristics of plant communities and the influence of historical land use patterns on present-day vegetation. Hosted by the department of biodiversity research and botany of the University of Potsdam, the data are available for collaborative research. This report describes the available content in the Vegetation Database of Deciduous Forests on Acidic Soils in NW Europe (GIVD ID EU-00-008).

Keywords: ecoinformatics; forest site classification.

GIVD Database ID: EU-00-008		Last update: 2012-05-03	
Vegetation Database of Deciduous Forests on Acidic Soils in NW Europe			
Scope: A database of mixed oak and beech forests (<i>Quercion roboris</i> , <i>Luzulo-Fagion</i>) in NW Europe (mainly DE, B, NL). Only original relevés (Braun-Blanquet method; published in local ecological journals or monographs, or unpublished) are included.			
Status: finished		Period: 1936-2007	
Database manager(s): Thilo Heinken (heinken@uni-potsdam.de)			
Owner: Thilo Heinken (private)			
Web address: [NA]			
Availability: free upon request		Online upload: no	Online search: no
Database format(s): TABWIN		Export format(s): [NA]	
Publication: [NA]			
Plot type(s): normal plots		Plot-size range: 100-900 m ²	
Non-overlapping plots: 4,437	Estimate of existing plots: [NA]	Completeness: [NA]	
Total plot observations: 4,437	Number of sources: 75	Valid taxa: [NA]	
Countries: BE: 29.0%; DE: 68.0%; NL: 2.0%; PL: 1.0%			
Forest: [NA] — Non-forest: [NA]			
Guilds: all vascular plants: 100%; bryophytes (terricolous or aquatic): 99%; lichens (terricolous or aquatic): 99%			
Environmental data: altitude: 40%; slope aspect: 12%; slope inclination: 12%; surface cover other than plants (open soil, litter, bare rock etc.): 8%; soil pH: 7%; other soil attributes: 15%			
Performance measure(s): cover: 100%			
Geographic localisation: point coordinates less precise than GPS, up to 1 km: 6%; small grid (not coarser than 10 km): 44%; political units or only on a coarser scale (>10 km): 100%			
Sampling periods: 1930-1939: 1.0%; 1940-1949: 1.0%; 1950-1959: 8.0%; 1960-1969: 4.0%; 1970-1979: 48.0%; 1980-1989: 19.0%; 1990-1999: 18.0%; 2000-2009: 2.0%			
Information as of 2012-07-12; further details and future updates available from http://www.givd.info/ID/EU-00-008			

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